

CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A binder comprising:

a front cover having an outer side and an inner side, the front cover having
a substantially transparent window, ~~inset into the front cover~~ and an inner panel coupled
to ~~a second~~ the inner side of the front cover to form a pocket, wherein visual display
materials are insertable into said the pocket and visible through the front cover;

a back cover;

a spine interconnecting the front cover and the back cover; ~~and~~

a flange extending from and coextensive with the spine, and a hinge
connecting the spine and the flange, the front cover being attached to the flange; and

a plurality of rings positioned on the spine.

2. (previously presented) The binder of claim 1 wherein the substantially
transparent window is substantially flush with the front cover.

3. (previously presented) The binder of claim 1 wherein the substantially
transparent window is recessed with respect to the front cover.

4. (previously presented) The binder of claim 1 wherein the inner panel includes
an opening.

5. (previously presented) The binder of claim 1 wherein the spine includes a first
hinge and a second hinge.

6. (previously presented) The binder of claim 5 wherein the spine further
comprises a convex main body, a first flange coupled to the first hinge and a second
flange coupled to the second hinge.

7. (previously presented) The binder of claim 6 wherein the spine includes indentations on the convex main body of the spine.

8. (previously presented) The binder of claim I wherein the front cover, the back cover, the spine, and the inner panel are made of polypropylene.

9. (currently amended) A binder comprising:
a front cover having an opening positioned thereon; an outer panel positioned within the opening, and an inner panel coupled to the second side of the front cover to define a pocket;
a back cover;
a spine comprising a convex main body, a first flange coupled to ~~the~~ a first hinge and a second flange coupled to ~~the~~ a second hinge, wherein the front cover is coupled to the first flange and the back cover is coupled to the second flange; and
a plurality of rings positioned within the main body of the spine.

10. (previously presented) The binder of claim 9 wherein the front cover, the back cover and the spine are made of polypropylene, and the outer panel and the inner panel are made of polycarbonate.

11. (previously presented) The binder of claim 9 wherein the inner panel includes a slot.

12. (previously presented) The binder of claim 9 wherein the outer panel is substantially flush with the front cover.

13. (previously presented) The binder of claim 9 further comprising a plurality of posts extending away from the second side of the front cover.

14. (previously presented) The binder of claim 13 further comprising a plurality of openings positioned along the perimeter of the inner panel and the outer panel, wherein the openings are sized to engage the plurality of posts positioned on the second side of the front cover.

15. (previously presented) The binder of claim 14 wherein the inner panel and the outer panel are heat staked to the front cover.

16. (previously presented) The binder of claim 14 wherein the inner panel and the outer panel are snap-fitted onto the front cover.

17. (currently amended) A binder comprising:

- a front cover made from a first material having a first side, a second side and an opening positioned thereon;
- a substantially transparent window made from a second material positioned within the opening of the front cover, wherein the first material and the second material are incompatible;
- a means for coupling an inner panel and the substantially transparent window to the second side of the front cover;
- a back cover made from the first material;
- a spine comprising a convex main body, a first **flange** coupled to ~~the~~ a first hinge and a second **flange** coupled to ~~a~~ the second hinge, wherein the front cover is coupled to the first flange and the back cover is coupled to the second flange; and
- a plurality of rings positioned within the main body of the spine.

18. (previously presented) The binder of claim 17 wherein the inner panel includes a slot positioned thereon.

19. (previously presented) The binder of claim 18 wherein the means for coupling the inner panel and the substantially transparent window to the front cover comprises a plurality of posts extending away from the second side of the front cover, and a plurality of openings positioned along the perimeter of the inner panel and the substantially transparent window, wherein the openings are sized to engage the plurality of posts positioned on the second side of the front cover.

20. (previously presented) The binder of claim 19 wherein the inner panel and the substantially transparent window are heat staked to the second side of the front cover.

21. (previously presented) The binder of claim 19 wherein the inner panel and the substantially transparent are snap-fitted onto the front cover.

22. (previously presented) The binder of claim 17 wherein the first material is polypropylene and the second material is polycarbonate.

23. (new) A binder as defined in claim 1, wherein the flange, spine and hinge are a unitary, plastic structure.

24. (new) A binder comprising:

a plastic front cover comprising a frame surrounding a plastic transparent window, the front cover having an outer side and an inner side;

an inner panel attached to the inner side of the front cover, the inner panel forming a pocket immediately behind the transparent window;

a plastic back cover;

a plastic spine having a convex main body, a front plastic flange, a back plastic flange, and integral hinges between the front flange, the convex main body, and the back flange, respectively;

the front cover being attached to the front plastic flange, and the back cover being attached to the back plastic flange.

25. (new) A binder comprising:

a front cover comprising a frame surrounding a transparent window, the front cover having an outer side and an inner side;

an inner panel attached to the inner side of the front cover, the inner panel forming a pocket immediately behind the transparent window;

a back cover;

a unitary spine having a convex main body, a front flange, a back flange, and integral hinges between the front flange, the convex main body, and the back flange, respectively;

the front cover being attached to the front flange, and the back cover being attached to the back flange.